

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - JULY 23

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOVIET PRESS:

--U.S. COVERAGE REMAINS LIGHT AND ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE. NOVOYE VREMYA CARRIES NOT UNFAVORABLE PIECE ON CARTER WHICH ALSO MENTIONS MONDALE (FAVORABLY) AND BRZEZINSKI (UNFAVORABLY, BUT WITH SLIGHT FAVORABLE TWIST)

--POST-ECPC (AND CEMA COUNCIL) MATERIAL IS DISTINGUISHED BY VERY AUTHORITATIVE PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON "HUMANITY'S SOCIALIST FUTURE" BY PONOMAREV AIDE SHAKHNAZAROV, BACKED UP BY TIMOFEYEV ON EUROPEAN WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT IN NOVOYE VREMYA, UNDISTINGUISHED KZ COMMENTARY BY DR.-PROF-COL KHALIPOV, AND FACTUAL SVETLOV-YUROV PIECE ON "SOCIALIST INTEGRATION IN ACTION" AFTER CEMA MEETING IN NOVOYE VREMYA (ALL JULY 23). SHAKHNAZAROV'S POINT SEEMS TO BE THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE REAL SOCIALISM, THAT IT (AND THEREFORE SOCIALIST INTEGRATION) IS HISTORICALLY INEVITABLE, AND THAT CURRENT "VARIETIES" ARE TEMPORARY; TIMOFEYEV POINT IS THAT INCREASING CLASS STRUGGLE AND ITS UNIFICATION IN WEST IS HELPED BY SOCIALISM.

--MBFR SESSION WRAP-UP BY TASS CORRESPONDENT L. VOLNUKHIN (IN JULY 23 PRAVDA AND KZ) TOUTS (AND DESCRIBES) EASTERN FEB 19 AND JUNE 10 INITIATIVES, COMPLAINS ABOUT WESTERN PRESSURE FOR ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION AND WE REFUSAL TO UNDERTAKE OBLIGATIONS, CALLS FOR "EQUAL-VALUE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH STATE", CLAIMS BALL IS IN NATO COURT.

--MOST STRIKING ASPECT OF MIDDLE EAST COVERAGE IS TOTAL ABSENCE OF LEBANON NEWS IN IZVESTIYA, PRAVDA
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AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. SUCH A LULL IN OTHERWISE STEADY COVERAGE MAY PRESAGES A FURTHER SOVIET STATEMENT. EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DAY JULY 23 EVOKED LENGTHY JULY 22 IZVESTIYA ARTICLE BY F. YUGOV CRITICAL OF EGYPTIAN POLICIES WHICH HAVE ENABLED IMPERIALISTS TO CARRY OUT THEIR ECONOMIC AND MILITARY-STRATEGIC GOALS IN EGYPT AND IN REGION. ARTICLE CONCLUDES WITH WISH OF "SOVIET PEOPLE" TO "FRIENDLY EGYPTIAN PEOPLE" FOR SUCCESS IN OVERCOMING

NUMEROUS PROBLEMS WHICH STAND BEFORE THEM. THIS FAIRLY CALM IF CRITICAL PIECE IS MATCHED BY ANOTHER, HOSTILE IZVESTIYA ARTICLE (REPEATED ON FRONT PAGE OF JULY 23 KRASNAYA ZVEZDA) ON EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL DEFENSE. IN RAPID FIRE MANNER, SHORT ARTICLE MENTIONS AGREEMENT, CITES "ARAB PRESS" ON SAUDI FINANCIAL BACKING OF AGREEMENT, AND CONCLUDES WITH "KNOWN" FACT THAT "BIG FIVE" AMERICAN OIL MONOPOLIES "DICTATE THEIR WILL" TO SAUDI ARABIA ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS. PRAVDA JULY 23 HAS MILD PIECE FROM ALEXANDRIA BY A. VASIL'EV DESCRIBING CONDITIONS AT PORT. ARTICLE MENTIONS ONGOING SOVIET-EGYPTIAN TRADE THROUGH PORT ("MUCH OF WHICH GOES TO PAY FOR CREDITS EXTENDED BY OUR COUNTRY") AND GOES ON TO DESCRIBE INVESTMENT BY CAPITALIST COUNTRIES IN PORT "WHICH NOW GIVES THEM SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES IN EGYPT".

--JULY 23 NOVOYE VREMYA CARRIES A SOMEWHAT MORE COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE SHA'IR'S RECENT MOSCOW PRESS CONFERENCE THAN HAD DAILY PRESS AT TIME.

--IN THE FAR EAST, PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY I. SHCHEDROV STATES THAT EVACUATION OF U.S. TROOPS FROM THAILAND WAS "WELCOME NEWS" TO THE THAI PUBLIC, BUT ADDS THAT WASHINGTON DID NOT "RELINQUISH ITS POSITIONS THERE WITHOUT A BATTLE". SHCHEDROV EMPHASIZES THAT U.S. BASES IN THAILAND HAVE "CEASED TO EXIST", BUT DOES NOT NOTE THAT U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO USE CERTAIN MILITARY FACILITIES THERE. PRAVDA ALSO WELCOMES THE RESTORATION OF RAILROAD SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1965 AND STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENT FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN SOUTHERN ASIA. FINALLY, PRAVDA RECORDS THAT THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IN AUSTRALIA HAS PERMITTED THE U.S. ATOMIC SUBMARINE "SNOOK" TO ENTER THE NAVAL BASE ON HARDEN ISLAND.

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2. U.S. NEWS REMAINS LIGHT, BUT NEGATIVE. JULY 23 PRAVDA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA CARRY IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR ARTICLES ON:

--DOBRYNIN RECEIVING COMMEMORATIVE TAPESTRY ON ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT.

--CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO FUNDING OF B-1.

--PRESIDENT FORD'S DESIGNATION OF NEW YORK, MISSISSIPPI AND NORTH DAKOTA AS DISASTER AREAS.

--JULY 23 PRAVDA AND JULY 22 IZVESTIYA CARRY ARTICLE (ENTITLED IN PRAVDA "RECURRENCE OF MCCARTHYISM") ON DANIEL SHORR'S LEAKING CONGRESSIONAL DOCUMENT TO VILLAGE VOICE.

--JULY 23 NOVOYE VREMYA HAS TWO-PAGE ARTICLE NOT UNFAVORABLE TO GOVERNOR CARTER (OR TO SENATOR MONDALE WHO GETS A SHORT MENTION), BUT WHICH ALSO CONCENTRATES ON ALLEGED

CONTRADICTIONS IN CARTER'S STATED POLICIES. ATTENTION IS CENTERED
ON HIS PROFESSED APPROVAL OF DETENTE
AND OF SOVIET-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS.
BUT ARTICLE ALYBPN
TEYRERAFT N.Y. TIMES INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE
CONDEMNED CONGRESSIONAL DISCRIMINATORY TRADE LEGISLATION BUT ALSO
"DID NOT EXCLUDE AS AN EXTREME MEASURE" ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON SOVIET
UNION. ARTICLE ALSO DISCUSSED INFLUENTIAL ROLE PLAYED BY
ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI WHO, "HAVING MADE A CAREER OF MILITANT ANTI-
COMMUNISM," HAS NOW BEGUN, ACCORDING TO SOME PARTICIPANTS OF THE
DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, "IN A SENSE TO GRADUALLY MODERNIZE HIS
OUTDATED DOGMA". MATLOCK

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